

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Food Price Inflation Takes a Bite Out of Food Stamps
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR
 Influential Scientific Information
Agency: Economic Research Service Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
USDA
Agency Contact: Elise Golan, egolan@ers.usda.gov
Subject of Review: Household monthly food stamp benefits equal the program's maximum benefit amount, which varies by household size, less 30 percent of gross income net of deductible income and expenses. To stabilize purchasing power of program participants, the FSP adjusts the maximum food stamp benefit amount at the beginning of the fiscal year using an index based on prices from the previous year. This report estimates the reduced purchasing power of the maximum food stamp benefit amount for fiscal years 1997 through 2007, and part of fiscal year 2008. It then compares these estimates with those from two alternative approaches for adjusting the maximum benefit amount: 1) set benefits for the current fiscal year at 103-percent of the TFP cost in June of the previous year; and 2) adjust benefits twice a year. Use of these alternative methods changes the level of food stamp benefits to recipients and the cost of the Food Stamp Program
Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: Panel Review Individual Reviewers
 Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 07/15/08 End: XX/XX/XX Completed: 09/12/08

Number of Reviewers: 3 or fewer 4 to 10 More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: Agency Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? Yes No
If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:
How:
When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? Yes No
Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? Yes No



